Experimental Film and Video Assignments
Spring 2021

Project One: *Lyrical Juxtapositions*:
André Breton's maxim "Beautiful as the chance encounter of a sewing machine and an umbrella on an operating table" is an expression of the belief that simply placing objects in an unexpected context reinvigorates their mysterious qualities." gathered from Jonathan Lethem's essay "the ecstasy of influence: a plagiarism" in Harpers Magazine

Step One: Shoot at least 10 different video "phrases" using a variety of styles from the pre-production list (include at least one establishing shot, one medium shot, one closeup.) Choose the subject based on its *visual appeal* to you and its meaning within a *general thematic concept* (such as grow, reflect, stamp, landslide, spectrum, bridge, etc.) Record at least 10 different sounds that you find and create (field sounds, foley sounds, tonal sounds, archival sounds.)

Step Two: Choose 5 video clips and 3 audio clips from step one to share with the class in our media bank on Google Drive. Using no more than 30% of your own clips, edit together a one minute *sequence* by juxtaposing, layering, comparing, revealing images and sounds to create a unified whole with a sense of beginning and ending. At this point, your original theme will likely change based on the new clips you use. You may choose to add text if needed to unify, but it is not required. If you do add text, it should be your writing (or a friend) or something that is clearly appropriated from a public source and brings meaning of its own.)

Technical Goals: Know basics of cameras, supports, Premiere, audio recorders.

Aesthetic Goals: create a unified whole of disparate parts, genuinely collaborate with each other.

Examples: Pipilotti Rist, Leighton Pierce, Hiraki Sawa, Josh Gumiela, YiDai

Project 2: Artist presentation
Choose a video/film artist from the list and give a 10-15 minute presentation that illuminates their process and concepts. You can concentrate on one piece if desired. Create a title sequence for your presentation in After Effects that reflects the work of that artist or what you are saying about them.

1. Alex Da Cort (performance, set)
2. Hariki Sawa (composite magic realism) (AE)
3. Michael Langan (choros, dahlia, heliotropes poem brian christian) (layers)
4. Guy Ben-Ner (domestic set construction)(interview)and Stealing Beauty on Youtube
5. Jackie Goss (video gamish)
6. Christian Marclay (appropriation)
7. Pipolotti Rist . (macro, layers AE,installation)
8. Krzysztof Wodiczko (public projections)
9. Robert Campbell (Solastalgia)
10. Joan Jonas (early video performance)
11. Yorgo Alexopolous (video walls).
12. Leighton Pierce (installation projection mapping)
13. Cory Archangel. (Pixel manipulation code)
14. Lev Manovich (interactive, theory,code)
15. Phil Hastings (after effects organisms, filmic)
16. Douglas Gordon (time, appropriation)

17. Hito Steyerl. (video games, surveillance, etc)
18. Julian Rosenfeldt (filmic, manifestos)
19. Hans Op de Beek: (staging silence, miniature sets)

Project Three: Abstract Montage

Early Experimental filmmakers often cut and spliced and painted on film stock to create moving abstract images, echoing the art world's expressionist paintings of the time. By emphasizing form over content, they connected to the emotional and intuitive parts of themselves and their viewers.

For this assignment we will use the special editing options in Adobe Premiere and After Effects (and perhaps more) to create an abstract montage. Recognizable images may be used but the emphasis will be on the nature of form and using the vocabulary of editing programs today to reinterpret abstract manipulations. The goal here will be to create a mood in a one minute piece, more poetic than didactic. Short tests will precede the project with demos in class.

Technical Goals:
Exploring the options in software manipulation

Aesthetic Goals: formal allure, unity, surprise, engagement
Artists: Chris Doyle
Oskar Fischinger
Stan Brakhage Mothlight
Michael Langan
Cory Archangel
YorgoAlexopolous (video Walls)
Phil Hastings (threshold series)
QianLi

Project Four: Appropriation and Social Comment

Many artists use images from popular culture to comment on society. This is your chance to do that. Download (preferably copyright free files primarily from Archive.org,) that are recognizable as a specific image or type of image that implies particular content. Juxtapose these images with others (either appropriated or created by you) to explore some social concept you are interested in. Suggest, but don't preach….imply but not use clichés. You may use sound in a similar way. The piece should be 2-3 minutes long.

Technical Goals: More AE, Dynamic Links
Artists:
Rohesia Hamilton Metcalfe
Manifesto with Julian Rosenfeldt Cate Blanchett (use of appropriated text)
Cristina Lucas Rape of the Sabine Women
Eve Sussman 89 sec single clip
Bill Viola the greeting
Hito Steyerl Factory of the Sun
Keren Cytter
Bond, James Bond
Ann Magnuson
Douglas Gordon 24 hr psycho
Christian Marclay the clock
Virgil Wildrich . Fast Film
Joseph Cornell: Rose Hobart
Psychic Driving show

Project Five: **Personal Experimental Film/Video**

In this longer project, you will use the tools gained from earlier projects to make a 3 minute piece based on a concept of your choosing. For inspirations, you might look to studies in other classes, events in your own life or the world at large. You might be prompted by a random cliché or word search, start with your own writing, movement, music, etc. If you desire, you can work collaboratively with a composition student from the Music department or a dancer or mover, but the edited piece will be done by you. At the end, write an artist's statement that could be used in promotional materials.

You will have 4-5 weeks for this longer project.

Tech Goals: Development of all previous skills
PR: writing about your work

Pipilotti Rist
Jeannette Thomas
Julian Rosenfeldt . Manifesto
Alex da Corte . Easternsport
Hernan Bas Ocean Symphony
Nomit . Holy Chicken
Phil Hastings Lake Series
Lev Manovich . Soft Cinema
Leighton Pierce
Yaloo . New millenium Workout
Hito Stertyl Factory of the Sun
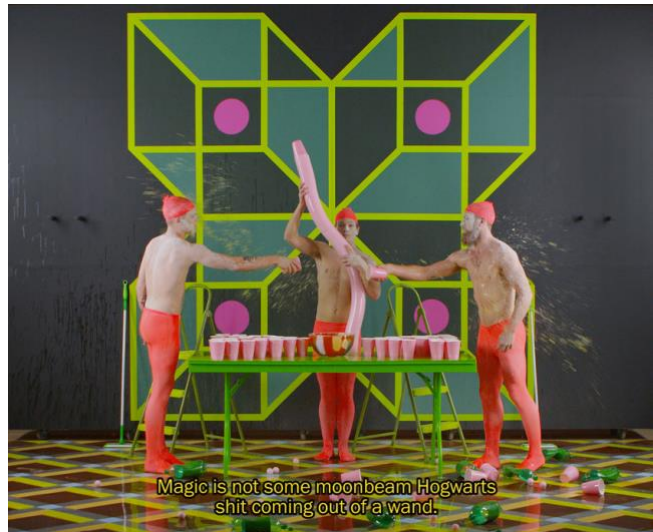
Project six: **Expanded Cinema**
Time to get physical! Use an option for public presentation that is NOT a theatre or monitor in an expected place. Choose a topic/image that interacts with architecture or other forms on campus. Prepare and distribute educational and PR information. It could grow out of one of your previous projects or be totally new.   This project may be restricted by the COVID situation at the time.

Tech Goals: Physical Presentation, writing about your work

YorgoAlexopolous (video Walls)
CalArtsA Mitek
http://www.qiandesign.com/
Ronen Sharabani chairs (projection)
projection mapping: 1024 Architecture new media article
reilly donovan mirror symmetry interactive
camille utterback precarious

Tentative Points
Lyrical Juztaposition 10 pts
Artist Presentation 10 pts
Abstract Montage 15 pts
Appropriation and Social Comment 20 pts
Personal Experimental 25 pts
Expanded Cinema 20pts